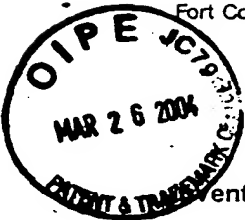


03-29-04

PATENT APPLICATION

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 10007376-1



IN THE  
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor(s): Martha L. Lyons

Confirmation No.: 6080

Application No.: 09/774,727

Examiner: J. Corrielus

Filing Date: 01-31-2001

Group Art Unit: 2172

Title: CENTRALIZED CLEARINGHOUSE FOR COMMUNITY IDENTITY INFORMATION

RECEIVED

Mail Stop Appeal Brief-Patents  
Commissioner For Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

MAR 31 2004

Technology Center 2100

TRANSMITTAL OF APPEAL BRIEF

Sir:

Transmitted herewith in triplicate is the Appeal Brief in this application with respect to the Notice of Appeal filed on 10-24-2003.

(complete (a) or (b) as applicable)

The proceedings herein are for a patent application and the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a) apply.

( ) (a) Applicant petitions for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136 (fees: 37 CFR 1.17(a)-(d) for the total number of months checked below:

( ) one month	\$110.00
( ) two months	\$420.00
( ) three months	\$950.00
( ) four months	\$1480.00

( ) The extension fee has already been filled in this application.

(X) (b) Applicant believes that no extension of time is required. However, this conditional petition is being made to provide for the possibility that applicant has inadvertently overlooked the need for a petition and fee for extension of time.

Please charge to Deposit Account 08-2025 the sum of \_\_\_\_\_. At any time during the pendency of this application, please charge any fees required or credit any over payment to Deposit Account 08-2025 pursuant to 37 CFR 1.25. Additionally please charge any fees to Deposit Account 08-2025 under 37 CFR 1.16 through 1.21 inclusive, and any other sections in Title 37 of the Code of Federal Regulations that may regulate fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

X) I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail, Airbill No: EV482735925US, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 Date of Deposit: 03-26-2004

OR

( ) I hereby certify that this paper is being transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office facsimile number \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_

Number of pages: \_\_\_\_\_

Typed Name: Carrie Wilson

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Respectfully submitted,

Martha L. Lyons

By \_\_\_\_\_

Thomas J. Meaney

Attorney/Agent for Applicant(s)

Reg. No. 41,990

Date: 03-26-2004

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wn

HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY  
Intellectual Property Administration  
P.O. Box 272400  
Fort Collins, Colorado 80527-2400

Docket No.: 10007376-1  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Martha L. Lyons

Application No.: 09/774,727

Confirmation No.: 6080

Filed: January 31, 2001

Art Unit: 2172

For: CENTRALIZED CLEARINGHOUSE FOR  
COMMUNITY IDENTITY INFORMATION

Examiner: J. Corrielus

**APPELLANT'S BRIEF**

MS Appeal Brief - Patents  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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MAR 31 2004

Technology Center 2100

Dear Sir:

This brief is in furtherance of the Notice of Appeal, filed in this case on October 24, 2003. The brief has further been amended in response to the Notice of Non-Compliance issued on February 26, 2004.

The fees required under § 1.17(f) and any required petition for extension of time for filing this brief and fees therefor, are dealt with in the accompanying TRANSMITTAL OF APPEAL BRIEF.

This brief is transmitted in triplicate.

This brief contains items under the following headings as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.192 and M.P.E.P. § 1206:

- I. Real Party In Interest
- II. Related Appeals and Interferences
- III. Status of Claims

- IV. Status of Amendments
- V. Summary of Invention
- VI. Issues
- VII. Grouping of Claims
- VIII. Arguments
- IX. Claims Involved in the Appeal
- Appendix A Claims

I. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest for this appeal is:

Hewlett-Packard Company, a California corporation, having its principal place of business in Palo Alto, California.

II. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

There are no other appeals or interferences which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in this appeal.

III. STATUS OF CLAIMS

A. Total Number of Claims in Application

There are 20 claims pending in application.

B. Current Status of Claims

- 1. Claims canceled: 0
- 2. Claims withdrawn from consideration but not canceled: 0
- 3. Claims pending: 1-20
- 4. Claims allowed: 0
- 5. Claims rejected: 1-20

C. Claims On Appeal

The claims on appeal are claims 1-20

#### IV. STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

Applicant filed an Amendment After Final Rejection without amendment to the claims on September 24, 2003. The Examiner responded to the Amendment After Final Rejection in an Advisory Action mailed October 14, 2003. In the Advisory Action, the Examiner indicated that Applicants' arguments did not place the application in condition for allowance.

#### V. SUMMARY OF INVENTION

The embodiments of the invention provide central collection point for reputation information that is accumulated through various activities of a user. Page 7, lns 23 – 26. At this collection point or clearinghouse, that reputation information may be shared by the user to any number or variety of activity communities where reputation information would be valuable. Page 8, lns 21 – 25. As such reputation information is accumulated, the activity communities may access the clearinghouse to obtain reputation information about a particular community member or user. Page 8, lns 21 – 25. This reputation information may be downloaded from the clearinghouse to the participating activity community only if the user first provides an authorization for the transmittal. Page 9, lns 15 – 27. Security measures are also in place to verify the identities of the parties accessing the clearinghouse, such as the individual users or participating activity communities. Page 9, lns 8 – 14.

#### VI. ISSUES

Whether the transmission of reputation information to an activity community responsive to an authorization received from a user is anticipated by the teachings of *Lang*, U.S. Pat. App. 20020046041.

#### VII. GROUPING OF CLAIMS

For purposes of this appeal brief only, and without conceding the teachings of any prior art reference, the claims have been grouped as indicated below:

##### Group Claim(s)

- I. Claims 1 – 8

## II. Claims 9 – 20

Claims 1 – 20 do not stand or fall together. In Section VIII below, Applicant has included arguments supporting the separate patentability of groups I and II as required by M.P.E.P. § 1206.

## VIII. ARGUMENTS

### A. Group I

#### 1. Separate Patentability

Claim 1 requires that reputation information that is transmitted to the various community organizations is transmitted in response to an authorization received by the user. The claim language states, “a communication system for receiving said reputation information and transmitting said reputation information to said plurality of community organizations responsive to an authorization received by said user.” Thus, the reputation information may not be transmitted to the community organizations until the user receives an authorization.

In contrast, claims 9 and 15 require that identity attributes are delivered to the various, verified third parties in response to an authorization received *from* the verified, associated user. The claim language states, “delivering at least one set of identity attributes to said verified third party responsive to an authorization received from said verified associated user,” (claim 9), and “means for releasing selected reliability data to one of said verified plurality of participating user communities responsive to consent given by said associated user,” (claim 15).

The difference between withholding delivery of the reputation information until the user receives an authorization and withholding delivery until an authorization is received from the user is substantial. Therefore, claims 1-8 are separately patentable from claims 9 – 20.

2. Issue: Whether the transmission of reputation information to an activity community responsive to an authorization received from a user is anticipated by the teachings of Lang, U.S. Pat. App. 20020046041.

The Examiner rejected claims 1 – 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) in view of Lang, U.S. Pat. App. 20020046041 (hereinafter *Lang*). Appellant urges that the Examiner's rejections should fail because *Lang* does not teach each and every limitation of the claimed invention.

The invention, as defined in claim 1 presents a reputation authority or clearing house that includes a database for storing the reputation information, some form of security measures to verify the identities of users or participating community organizations, and a communication system that handles the receiving and transmitting of the reputation information. In addition, claim 1 provides that the communication system transmits the user's reputation information to the community organizations "responsive to an authorization received by said user." Therefore, a user must first receive an authorization to transmit the reputation information before that information is transmitted to the community organizations. The Examiner has not addressed this limitation, and *Lang* simply fails to teach or suggest such a limitation.

The *Lang* invention provides that reputation information about parties may be stored within one or more databases controlled by an automated reputation service. [0006] *Clients* may access the automated reputation service to request reputation information regarding certain *parties*. [0007] The "clients" disclosed in *Lang* correspond to the "community organizations" in the claimed invention, while the "parties" disclosed in *Lang* correspond to the "users" in the claimed invention. No where in *Lang* is the receipt of reputation information by the parties contingent on receiving an authorization from the parties. Therefore, *Lang* does not teach each and every element of the invention claimed in claim 1.

### 3. Conclusion

Based on the foregoing, because the remaining claims 2 – 8 each depend from independent claim 15, Appellant respectfully submits that claims 1 – 8 are patentable over the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejection issued by the Examiner. Reversal of the rejections is courteously solicited.

B. Group II

1. Separate Patentability

Claim 1 requires that reputation information that is transmitted to the various community organizations is transmitted in response to an authorization received by the user. The claim language states, “a communication system for receiving said reputation information and transmitting said reputation information to said plurality of community organizations responsive to an authorization received by said user.” Thus, the reputation information may not be transmitted to the community organizations until the user receives an authorization.

In contrast, claims 9 and 15 require that identity attributes are delivered to the various, verified third parties in response to an authorization received *from* the verified, associated user. The claim language states, “delivering at least one set of identity attributes to said verified third party responsive to an authorization received from said verified associated user,” (claim 9), and “means for releasing selected reliability data to one of said verified plurality of participating user communities responsive to consent given by said associated user,” (claim 15).

The difference between withholding delivery of the reputation information until the user receives an authorization and withholding delivery until an authorization is received from the user is substantial. Therefore, claims 1-8 are separately patentable from claims 9 – 20.

2. Issue: Whether the transmission of reputation information to an activity community responsive to an authorization received from a user is anticipated by the teachings of Lang, U.S. Pat. App. 20020046041

The Examiner rejected claims 9 – 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) in view of Lang, U.S. Pat. App. 20020046041 (hereinafter *Lang*). Appellant urges that the Examiner’s rejections should fail because *Lang* does not teach each and every limitation of the claimed invention.

The invention, as defined in claims 9 and 15, presents a reputation management clearinghouse or authority that includes a database for storing the reliability data or identity

attributes, some form of security measures to verify the identities of users or participating user communities, and a system for receiving and transmitting of the reliability data. In addition, claims 9 and 15 provide that the communication system transmits the user's reputation information to the community organizations "responsive to an authorization received from said verified associated user." (Claim 9) Therefore, a user must first give an authorization to transmit the reputation information before that information is transmitted to the community organizations. The Examiner has not addressed this limitation, and *Lang* simply fails to teach or suggest such a limitation.

The *Lang* invention provides that reputation information about parties may be stored within one or more databases controlled by an automated reputation service. [0006] *Clients* may access the automated reputation service to request reputation information regarding certain *parties*. [0007] The "clients" disclosed in *Lang* correspond to the "community organizations" in the claimed invention, while the "parties" disclosed in *Lang* correspond to the "users" in the claimed invention. No where in *Lang* is the receipt of reputation information by the parties contingent on receiving an authorization from the parties. Therefore, *Lang* does not teach each and every element of the invention claimed in claims 9 and 15.

### 3. Conclusion

Based on the foregoing, because the remaining claims 10 – 14 and 16 – 20 each depend from the independent claims 9 and 15, Appellant respectfully submits that claims 9 – 20 are patentable over the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejection issued by the Examiner. Reversal of the rejections is courteously solicited.



IX. CLAIMS INVOLVED IN THE APPEAL

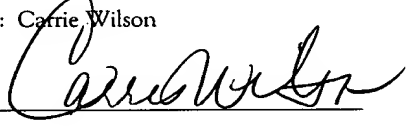
A copy of the claims as requested for consideration in the present appeal is attached hereto as Appendix A.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 08-2025, under Order No. 10007376-1 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail, Airbill No. EV482735925US in an envelope addressed to: MS Appeal Brief – Patents, Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Date of Deposit: March 26, 2004

Typed Name: Carrie Wilson

Signature: 

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Thomas J. Meaney  
Attorney/Agent for Applicant(s)  
Reg. No.: 41,990

Date: March 26, 2004

Telephone No. (214) 855-8230

## APPENDIX A

### **Claims Involved in the Appeal of Application Serial No. 09/774,727**

1. (Original) A reputation authority for electronically storing reputation information relating to a user comprising:
  - a database for storing said reputation information;
  - security measures for verifying identities of at least one of said user and a plurality of community organizations; and
  - a communication system for receiving said reputation information and transmitting said reputation information to said plurality of community organizations responsive to an authorization received by said user.
2. (Original) The reputation authority of claim 1 wherein said reputation information comprises at least one of:
  - information related to activities of said user;
  - information related to qualifications of said user; and
  - information related to reliability of said user.
3. (Original) The reputation authority of claim 1 further comprising:
  - a certification engine for certifying authenticity of said transmitted reputation information.
4. (Original) The reputation authority of claim 1 further comprising:
  - a reputation information classifier for grouping pieces of said reputation information into predetermined categories related to activities conducted with said plurality of communication organizations.
5. (Previously Amended) The reputation authority of claim 4 wherein said plurality of community organizations receives said reputation information in categories related to said activities conducted on said plurality of community organizations.

6. (Original) The reputation authority of claim 1 wherein said user authorization is provided by said user to said plurality of community organizations for retrieving said reputation information from said reputation authority.

7. (Original) The reputation authority of claim 1 wherein said user authorizes said reputation authority to transmit said reputation information to said plurality of community organizations.

8. (Original) The reputation authority of claim 1 wherein at least one of said user and said plurality of community organizations subscribes to said reputation authority in order to participate in said electronically storing reputation information.

9. (Original) A method for providing a centralized repository of identity attributes comprising the steps of:

verifying an identity of one of an associated user and an accessing third party responsive to a request to access said centralized repository;

receiving said identity attributes from at least one of said verified associated user and said verified accessing third party;

storing said identity attributes in a database indexed according to said verified associated user; and

delivering at least one set of said identity attributes to said verified third party responsive to an authorization received from said verified associated user.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein said storing step includes the step of:

categorizing said identity attributes into sets related to activities of said accessing third party.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein said at least one set comprises said sets related to activities of said accessing third party.

12. (Original) The method of claim 9 further comprising the step of:  
processing a request for said at least one set of identity attributes from said accessing third party, wherein said associated user provides said authorization to said accessing third party.

13. (Original) The method of claim 9 further comprising the step of:  
updating said stored identity attributes from at least one of said associated user and said accessing third party; and  
certifying said at least one set of said identity attributes.

14. (Original) The method of claim 9 further comprising the step of:  
registering at least one of said associated user and said accessing third party with said centralized repository of identity attributes for receiving prior to said verifying step.

15. (Original) A reputation management clearinghouse comprising:  
means for verifying an identity of one of a plurality of users and a plurality of participating user communities responsive to a request to access said clearinghouse;  
means for storing reliability data from one of said verified plurality of users and said verified plurality of participating user communities;  
means for associating said stored reliability data with an associated user; and  
means for releasing selected reliability data to one of said verified plurality of participating user communities responsive to consent given by said associated user.

16. (Original) The reputation management clearinghouse of claim 15 further comprising:  
means for updating said stored reliability data from at least one of said plurality of users and said plurality of participating user communities.

17. (Original) The reputation management clearinghouse of claim 15 wherein said means for storing includes:  
means for classifying said reliability data into groups related to activities of said plurality of participating user communities.

18. (Original) The reputation management clearinghouse of claim 17 wherein said selected reliability data comprises said groups related to activities of said plurality of participating user communities.

19. (Original) The reputation management clearinghouse of claim 15 further comprising:

means for processing requests for said selected reliability data from said plurality of participating user communities, wherein said verified one of said plurality of users provides said consent to said plurality of participating user communities.

20. (Original) The reputation management clearinghouse of claim 15 further comprising:

means for processing a request to deliver said selected reliability data from said verified one of said plurality of users, wherein said verified one of said plurality of users provides said consent to said reputation management clearinghouse.